Suspension of construction of a National Highway

*232. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work of four-laning of National Highway No. 1 has been stopped for the present ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be recommenced ; and

(c) by what date the stretch between New Delhi and Amritsar is stated for completion?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Out of total length of 456 kms. of National Highway No. 1 between Delhi and Amritsar, 93 kms. is already four-lane. In addition, the work of four-laning has been taken up in a length of 169 kms. In 10 packages. Contractor for one road package in Haryana (length 24.8 kms.) and another bridge package in Punjab has been expelled because of poor progress. Progress in three other road packages in Haryana (length 52·20 kms.) and one bridge package in Punjab is poor because of dispute in the partners of the Joint venture and insufficient mobilisation by the contractor, respectively. Tenders are being reinvited for the road package in Haryana and the same have already been received for the bridge package in Punjab.

The work relating to four-laning of remaining length of 194 kms. has yet not been sanctioned. It is too early to indicate the date of completion.

Border disputes between different States

*233 SHRI A.G. KULKARNI : SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of border disputes between different States after the Mahajan Commission Award and other Awards which were in existence as on 1st March, 1990 : and

(b) whether Government have formulated some guidelines to solve the border problems which are long-standing and are creating social tensions?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED) : (a) Boundary disputes between the following States, invelving territorial claims/ counter claims are pending:—

(1) Maharashthra and Karnataka;

(2) Karnataka and Kerala;

(3) Assam and Nagaland ; and

(4) Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

(b) While no guidelines have been formulated, Government's firm view is that there disputes can be resolved only with the willing cooperation of the State Governments concerned and that towards this and these Central Government will be glad to extend all possible assistance.

Approach of Indo-U S chamber of Commerce to Indian Govt.

*234 DR. BAPU KALDATE: will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Ind-US Chamber of Commerce, Miami, Florica, USA fighting for freedom of religion